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(54) **MICROPELLETS OF FINE PARTICLE NUTRIENTS AND METHODS OF INCORPORATING SAME INTO SNACK FOOD PRODUCTS**

(75) Inventors: **Stefan K. Baier**, Hartsdale, NY (US); **Ajay Rajeshwar Bhaskar**, Allen, TX (US); **Eugenio Bortone**, McKinney, TX (US); **Pierre Faa**, Frisco, TX (US); **Chien-Seng Hwang**, Frisco, TX (US); **Jorge C. Morales-Alvarez**, Plano, TX (US); **Deepali Palta**, Dallas, TX (US)

(73) Assignee: **Frito-Lay North America, Inc.**, Plano, TX (US)

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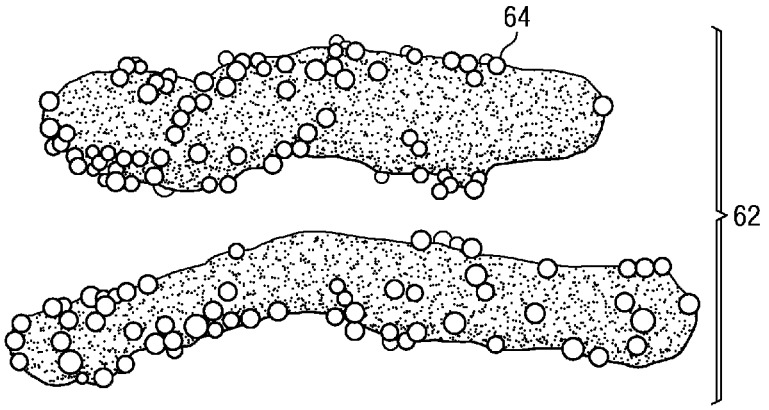
Primary Examiner — Jyoti Chawla

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Colin P. Cahoon; Celina M. Orr; Carstens & Cahoon, LLP

(57) **ABSTRACT**

Nutritious granular materials of fine particle sizes agglomerated within versatile micropellets are useful for inserting significant amounts of nutritious properties into snack foods. Expandable micropellet-containing formulations provide for introduction of fine particle ingredients such as proteins, minerals and other components or desirable nutrients into food processing lines not typically amenable to the fine particle sizes. Micropellet-containing formulations may consist entirely of micropellets, or may contain an expandable starch such as, for example, corn meal, sheeted doughs, and expanded collet products onto which the micropellets may be basted.

16 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets